

House Bill 16 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Golick of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Tumlin of the 38<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Hatfield of the 177<sup>th</sup>, Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 45-1-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to complaints or information from public employees as to fraud, waste, and abuse in state programs and operations, so as to change certain definitions to include a broader list of employees, officials, and administrators who may be protected by the provisions of this Code section; to change the definition of "retaliate"; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 45-1-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to complaints or information from public employees as to fraud, waste, and abuse in state programs and operations, is amended by revising paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(3) 'Public employee' means any person who is employed by the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of the state or by any other department, board, bureau, commission, authority, or other agency of the state. This term also includes all employees, officials, and administrators of any agency covered under the State Merit System of Personnel Administration and any local or regional governmental entity that receives any funds from the State of Georgia or any state agency.

(4) 'Public employer' means the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of the state or any other department, board, bureau, commission, authority, or other agency of the state which employs or appoints a public employee or public employees; or any local or regional governmental entity that receives any funds from the State of Georgia or any state agency.

(5) 'Retaliate' or 'retaliation' refers to the discharge, suspension, or demotion by a public employer of a public employee or any other adverse employment action taken by a public employer against a public employee in the terms or conditions of employment for

1 disclosing a violation of or noncompliance with a law, rule, or regulation to either a  
2 supervisor or ~~state~~ government agency."

3 **SECTION 2**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.